

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5768

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 5768 VICE 5678)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IR

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATIONS SUBSIDE, PARTY REORGANIZATION CONTINUES
SUMMARY: COUNTRY HAS REMAINED QUIET FOR PAST WEEK ALTHOUGH
THERE ARE PREDICTIONS BY OPPOSITION SOURCES OF COUNTRY WIDE
DAY OF MOURNING ON JUNE 17. ISFAHAN CIVILIAN COURT TRIES
STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS. DISSIDENT LAWYER ACQUITTED IN WEST
AZARBAIJAN. ELECTION BILL DELAYED TO NEXT FALL. RESURGENCE
PARTY WING CHAIRMAN TO BE ANNOUNCED NEXT WEEK. GROUP FOR
STUDY OF IRANIAN PROBLEMS SUMMONED TO JUNE 18 MEETING. END
SUMMARY.

1. GOI IS REPORTEDLY TAKING PRECAUTIONS IN CONNNECTION WITH
JUNE 17, WHICH HAS BEEN DECREED DAY OF MOURNING FOR TWO MEN
KILLED IN AYATOLLAH SHARIATMADARI'S HOME MAY 10 AS WELL AS
"FOURTH FORTIETH DAY" AFTER DEATHS AT QOM AND ELSEWHERE
JANUARY 7-9. WE UNDERSTAND MOVE TO JUNE 17 WAS MADE BECAUSE
19TH (FORTIETH DAY FROM MAY 10) IS RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY. SCENARIO
STILL CALLS FOR PEOPLE STAYING HOME TO MOURN.

2. FOLLOWING UP REPORT IN PERISAN (BUT NOT FOREIGN LANGUAGE)
PRESS, CONSULATE ISFAHAN REPORTS THAT 16 STUDENTS ARE PRESENTLY
ON TRIAL IN ISFAHAN'S CRIMINAL COURT NUMBER 1 FOR DESTROYING
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PROPERTY AND DISTURBING THE PEACE. TEN OF THESE STUDENTS WERE
ARRESTED FOR BREAKING WINDOWS AT ISFAHAN UNIVERSITY, A GROUP OF
FOUR AND A GROUP OF TWO WERE ARRESTED SEPARATELY OUTSIDE THE
UNIVERSITY. CONSULATE HAS LEARNED THAT THE OFFENSES ARE CON-
SIDERED MINOR AND THAT NO SEVERE SENTENCES ARE EXPECTED.

3. IN ANOTHER COURT CASE LAWYER AMIR MASHALLAH BOZCHELOW WAS

ACQUITTED OF "ABUSE OF LAWYER'S POWERS" CHARGE BY WEST AZARBAIJAN PROVINCIAL COURT JUNE 14. CASE GAINED PROMINENCE FOLLOWING DECISION OF THREE "PROGRESSIVE LAWYERS," INCLUDING MATIN-DAFTARI, TO REPRESENT BOZCHELOW IN HIS APPEAL OF THE DECISION BY THE PUBLIC SECURITY COMMISSION OF REZAYIEH TO EXILE HIM FROM AZARBAIJAN FOR SIX MONTHS. MATIN-DAFTARI BASED HIS APPEAL ON THE GOVERNMENT'S USE OF UNRELIABLE AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

4. MAJLES CHAIRMAN RIZAI ANNOUNCED JUNE 14 THAT CONSIDERATION OF ELECTIONS BILL WOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER PARLIAMENTARY SUMMER RECESS DUE TO END OCTOBER 6. MAJLES JUSTICE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN CONSIDERING THE BILL FOR SOME WEEKS AND HAS RECEIVED OVER 250 AMENDMENTS FROM DEPUTIES WHICH MUST BE REVIEWED IN COMMITTEE BEFORE BILL IS SENT FOR SECOND READING BEFORE FULL MAJLES. CLEARLY, MEMBERSHIP WAS NOT UP TO FACING SUCH A MONUMENTAL TASK SO CLOSE TO WIND-UP OF CURRENT SESSION. REPORTS WE HAVE HEARD (FOR EXAMPLE, SENATE PRESIDENT SHARIF-EMAMI TOLD AMBASSADOR HE THOUGHT ELECTION LAW HAD AND UNNECESSARY) SUGGEST POSTPONEMENT MAY EVENTUALLY LEAD TO RADICAL TRANSFORMATION OF THIS BILL, IF NOT ACTUAL DEFEAT. THIS IS FIRST EXAMPLE IN RECENT MEMORY OF MAJLES OPENLY RESISTING A PIECE OF IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION--A SIGN OF THE TIMES.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW RESURGENCE PARTY WING CHAIRMEN HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO NEXT WEEK. WINGS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET
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JUNE 18 FOR PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES WITH ELECTIONS TO BE HELD JUNE 20. A NUMBER OF NAMES HAVE SURFACED FOR BOTH GROUPS. THE PROGRESSIVES ARE RUMORED TO HAVE GHOLAM REZA AFKHAMI/(LITERACY CORPS HEAD) AND SENATORS MOJDEHI AND NARAGHI AS CANDIDATES. THE CONSTRUCTIVES WILL CHOOSE AMONG MOSTAFA ALAMOUTI (MAJLES DEPUTY AND RESURGENCE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER), MANUCHEHR TASLIMI (FORMER COMMERCE MINISTER) AND SENATOR MAHDI SAMII.

6. MEANWHILE DISCUSSION OF PARTY REORGANIZATION CONTINUES. GROUP FOR STUDY OF IRANIAN PROBLEMS UNDER THE SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION HAS BEEN CALLED TO AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON JUNE 19. EIGHT HUNDRED MEMBER GROUP WILL SUBMIT TO THE SHAH A REPORT WITH PROPOSALS FOR MORE EFFECTIVELY RESPONDING TO PRESENT PROBLEMS FACING THE GOVERNMENT. JUST WHAT THESE PROPOSALS ARE OR WHAT TYPE OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES WOULD BE SUGGESTED FOR THE RASTAKHIZ PARTY IS UNCLEAR. SPECULATION FOCUSES ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT HUSHANG NAHAVANDI, CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP, MAY RELINQUISH HIS POSITION AS HEAD OF EMPRESS FARAH'S SECRETARIAT TO BECOME THE FULL TIME LEADER OF A NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENT. NAHAVANDI IS KNOWN FOR HIS CRITICAL VIEWS OF THE PARTY'S PERFORMANCE, URGING A MORE

RIGOROUS ATTACK ON CORRUPT OFFICIALS AND A REVIVED PARTY PROGRAM. NAHAVANDI, WHO IS EXCEEDINGLY AMBITIOUS, MAY WELL BE ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE PARTY AND WHO WE KNOW ALREADY CONSIDERS NAHAVANDI A COMPETITOR AS ADVISOR TO THE SHAH ON THESE MATTERS.
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